

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 29, 2021 8:00 AM

Printed on: April 30, 2021 2:43 PM

COMMENTS FOR: SB 1340

Lesha Roberts

self

Hockley, TX

Texans are fed up with voter fraud and we demand real change. We WILL NOT forget 2020. We WILL NOT move on. We DEMAND enforcing laws on the books and passing legislation to make elections safer and harder to cheat. We need much stronger penalties for voter fraud. Ballot Harvesting should be illegal and NO drop boxes! One Person One Vote. Our elected officials need to do their job and protect voter integrity.

Connie Matthews, CPA

Self CPA

Temple, TX

Republicans are for reducing government regulation. We believe in cost benefit analysis to determine if the benefits of a policy outweigh the cost. We believe in using factual evidence in our cost benefit analysis. No emotions or anecdotes, just the facts. There is no evidence at all that this bill will make voting more secure. There is no evidence that voting in Texas has any security issues at all. How we, There are stark costs to citizens if their efforts to vote are hindered by being forced to produce more paperwork for the government. Let's get government off the backs of the citizens. It is their right to vote and until there is evidence that the voting system we have needs changes please don't interfere with our constitutional rights.

Beth Biesel, Election Integrity Chair, Texas Eagle Forum

Texas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

Texas Eagle Forum supports this bill. Texas' voter rolls must be accurate, honest, and up to date.

Carrie Moore

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

VOTE YES! Voter rolls should be purged regularly and often. We need specific dates/times they must be purged. "As frequently as possible" is way too ambiguous.

Liudmila Homen

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

_____ YES _____

Have you seen those folks at the border? I personally refuse to think it's pure compassion and benevolence, I'm inclined to suspect there's hope for illegal votes quite possibly for the party so kindly extending their welcoming open arms. Yes, we OBVIOUSLY need TO MAKE SURE those who aren't eligible to vote will NOT VOTE.

Richard Smith

Self

Corpus christi, TX

I vote yes.

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

Please vote yes. This will improve election integrity by purging the rolls of folks who should not be on them, thus limiting opportunity for fraud.

Larry Ringler

Self

Portland, TX

Vote YES! It just makes sense to purge voter rolls of non-citizens and the dead, and clarification of felons, as well as linking the secretary of state to the Department of Public Safety, as long as the communication is spelled out to a certain time frame. The wording in Sec. 15.054 should be changed from "as frequently as possible" to "every 30 days" to set a deadline.

Paul Laudadio

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

YES! Voter rolls need to be purged of non-citizens, deceased and felons! This makes perfect sense as well as linking this to the Secretary of State Department of Public Safety capturing the appropriate time frame. This should be done monthly!

Julie Kellogg

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes. Why isn't this already happening? Purging voter rolls of non-citizens, the deceased, and clarification of felons just makes sense. Linking the secretary of state to the Department of public safety also makes sense, as long as the communication is spelled out to a certain timeframe, VERY frequent and not open to a convenient timeframe. Make the language specific, the Sec. 15.054 needs to be changed from "as frequently as possible" to "every 30 days". Too much slack and we have gained nothing by adding this bill. Must be specific and measurable, there's no teeth in a law that doesn't have a timeframe specified.

Lisa Humphrey
ADL Texas
Austin, TX

Re: SB 1340, relating to voter qualification and registration.

We write to express ADL's (Anti-Defamation League) strong opposition to Senate Bill 1340 (SB 1340), which erects entirely unnecessary barriers to voting with no discernable public benefit. SB 1340 is another attempt to limit voting access and opens the door to another illegal and unconstitutional voter purge like the one in 2019 in Texas, which became a national spectacle.

Despite baseless attempts to characterize SB 1340 as an effort to reduce voter fraud, Texas' elections are not rife with fraud or serious error. To quote a recent Texas Tribune story: "Though there are documented cases of fraud in Texas, it remains rare. There have been no reports or evidence that there were widespread issues concerning fraud during the 2020 election, and Keith Ingram – the chief of elections at the Texas Secretary of State's office – recently told House lawmakers that 'Texas had an election that was smooth and secure.'" Last year, the Houston Chronicle reported that, despite devoting 22,000 staff hours to the task, the Texas Attorney General's office closed only 16 cases related to elections – all false addresses on voter registration forms in Harris County.

We urge the House Elections Committee to oppose SB 1340 and work to make voting more accessible, not create new barriers.

Michael Fossum
Self, engineer
Austin, TX

I support SB 1340 , and I ask that you support it too, and vote it out of committee. This bill will help prevent voter fraud by removing non-citizens and other ineligible people from the voter rolls. Voting integrity is essential, and we cannot allow the fraud and cheating by the democrats in the 2020 Presidential election to happen again. Vote yes on SB 1340. Thank you.

Michael Fossum

Mary Slaughter
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Please vote Yes!! Purging voter rolls of non-citizens, the deceased, and clarification of felons is necessary!! Linking the Secretary of State to the Department of Public Safety makes sense as long as a certain time frame is stipulated. The language of Sec. 15.054 needs to be changed to say "every 30 days" instead of "as frequently as possible ". A deadline is imperative!

Victoria Hanson
self - retired
Corpus Christi, TX

YES – This is an excellent law, ensuring that rules are followed, and the various interested departments are aware of their sharing and maintenance responsibilities.

DONNA EYLES

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes. Anything we can do, anyone we can use to keep voter rolls updated, should be utilized.

Kimberly Bridges Young

Self, Retired

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote Yes. Purging voter rolls of non-citizens, the deceased, and clarification of felons just makes sense: as does linking the secretary of state to Department of public safety, as long as the communication is spelled out to a certain time frame, VERY frequent and not open to a convenient time frame. Also, the language of Sec. 15.054 needs to be changed from "as frequently as possible" to "every 30 days". There's no teeth in a law that doesn't have a deadline for action.

Sharon Burnett

Self

Ingleside, TX

Honorable Buckingham,
---Change "as frequently as possible" to "every 30 days"
---YES we need to purge voter rolls!!!
Thank you,
SKB

Carolyn Zoch

Self - Registered Respiratory Therapist

HOUSTON, TX

Please vote NO on this bill. It makes zero sense in a democracy to have the person who is the chief voter registrar for the entire state be someone who is APPOINTED and not democratically elected. Also the legislative budget board estimates this would cost more than 18 Million the first year and every year after that, and for what? There is no benefit unless it's for republicans to install a yes boy. That 18 million should go to updating our power grid! 100 Texans died because of this legislatures failure to use our tax dollars wisely.

Wendy Woodland

Texas Library Association

Austin, TX

April 29, 2021

Representative Briscoe Cain
Chairman, Committee on Elections
Texas House of Representatives,

Chairman Cain and committee members,

The Texas Library Association represents almost 5,000 public, school, academic and special librarians across Texas. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1340 by Senator Buckingham.

Section 46 of SB 1340 is identical to HB 4251 as filed by Representative Toth. It exempts public libraries from requirements in Chapter 20 of the election code that apply to voter registration agencies. Public libraries would still be able to provide voter registration application forms, but they would be prohibited from accepting completed registration forms and submitting them to the county registrar.

We understand that complying with some of the requirements related to voter registration agencies may be a burden to smaller and rural libraries, however, there are libraries that have these systems in place and want to continue to provide full voter registration service to their communities.

Therefore, we ask that the language of this section be amended to match the committee substitute version of HB 4251 by Representative Toth which this committee passed on April 27. The committee substitute exempts public libraries from Section 20.004 of the election code related to requirements for an agency coordinator. This allows public libraries to continue to provide essential voter registration services to their communities, while lessening the administrative burden that particularly impact smaller libraries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Woodland
Director, Advocacy and Communication
Texas Library Association

Julie Gilberg
Self
Austin, TX

I'm asking that you vote against referring SB 1340 out of the House Elections Committee. It will cost almost \$20 million a year for no benefit to the voters and taxpayers of Texas. Please vote NO on SB 1340. Thank you.

Bonnie Seelig
Self Retired
Spicewood, TX

SUPPORT - The details laid out in the bill were those details the citizens of this state thought were being followed for the past 20 + years. Politicians spouted about the safety of Texas elections until last year. They seemed to be so naive as to believe without checking. How confident does that make the citizens in elected officials. In fact, maybe those officials making the laws now were not honestly elected and that is the reason they are so willing "to believe."

After numerous calls to the Office of Elections, Director Keith Ingram confirmed to me that NO ONE WAS CHECKING CITIZENSHIP. Just think, a common citizen who became curious and doubtful that lax rules could lead to honest elections, was told by the person in charge that NO ONE WAS CHECKING CITIZENSHIP. Who would have believed that a supposedly strong conservative state like Texas would have so little regard for the elections that determine who makes the laws, enforces the laws and determines which laws are constitutional.

When people are hired to run elections who have so little regard for the integrity of elections that we, the citizens, have to go back to the beginning and detail what is honest, that is a sad indictment of our culture. This bill will confirm to the citizens that elections can be honest if the rules are followed and the bureaucrats are monitored TO DO THEIR JOB under pain of prosecution.

Tolerance of bureaucratic disregard for election security has lead us to where we are today. The last virtue of a great nation before its downfall is TOLERANCE!

Linda Maldonado

Self

San Antonio, TX

Against

This bill will incur great expense for the state of Texas and will purge eligible voters in the same manner as the the 2019 purge illegally purged US citizens.

Jennifer Lane

Self

Denton, TX

Please improve this bill such that any citizen of Texas who has a Texas drivers license can register on line. Please allow this bill to include all Texas drivers license holders to register on line. Please also change the bill to use the NEW address instead of the old address for the confirmation letter. Thank you. With these amendments, I recommend approval of this bill. thank you.

Sarah Medford

self; retired attorney

JARRELL, TX

Verifying CITIZENSHIP of voters is critical and essential! For this reason, I am in FAVOR of this bill.

Jennifer Lane

Self

Denton, TX

I am writing again having listened to the testimony. I oppose SB 1340 in its entirety given that the DPS verification presents enormous problems for naturalized citizens, elderly and other citizens who do not drive. The cost of fighting court battles is prohibitive. I am also a VDR and the 30 day from signing must remain the standard for voter registration applications. Thirty days is plenty of time for the Secretary of State to determine citizenship. The bill also radically changes the voter registration process in Texas, a process that is already complicated enough. This bill is ill advised. Please vote against it. Thank you.

Jennifer Lane

Self

Denton, TX

Further reason to oppose SB 1340. It is adverse to naturalized citizens, along with all the rest of what is wrong with it, which I enumerated in my previous message. Thank you for voting against this bill.
